

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 L-03 AID-05 EB-07 IGA-02

ACDA-05 MC-02 TRSE-00 EUR-12 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7504

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 0467

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MILI, PFOR, GB

SUBJ: US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GABON

REF: STATE 059063

1. APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT BONGO TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE HAS NOW BEEN FIXED FOR SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 13. PLAN TO CONVEY TO HIM AT THAT TIME INFORMATION PROVIDED PARA 1 REFTEL, ALTHOUGH HE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY REGARD THIS AS INADEQUATE RESPONSE IN VIEW FAVORABLE SIGNALS GIVEN HIM NEARLY FOUR MONTHS AGO. IF THERE IS ANY HOPE THAT SOMETHING MORE POSITIVE CAN BE PROVIDED AT THIS STAGE, I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE RECEIVING SUPPLEMENTARY MESSAGE PRIOR MY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT.

2. WITH REGARD TO PROPOSED GRANT ELEMENT OF PROGRAM MENTIONED IN FINAL SENTENCE PARA 2 REFTEL, WISH SUGGEST THAT VIP VEHICLES FOR PRESIDENTIAL GUARD ARE ONLY ONE OF MANY POSSIBILITIES FOR TOKEN GIFT TO GABON. WE HAD SUGGESTED THESE BECAUSE OF THEIR DIRECT RELATIONSHIP TO PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY, BUT OTHER EQUIPMENT ON GABONESE LIST WHICH FALLS WITHIN SCOPE OF AUTHORIZED MILITARY

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PROGRAMS WOULD ALSO SERVE OUR BASIC PURPOSE OF

DEMONSTRATING INTEREST IN GABONESE SECURITY CONCERNS.STEIGMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PROCEDURAL SECURITY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cahillha
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LIBREV00467
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760092-0444
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760372/aaaaciff.tel
Line Count: 62
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 59063
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cahillha
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2004 by cahillha>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GABON
TAGS: MASS, MILI, PFOR, GB, (BONGO, ALBERT BERNARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006